

All Aboard!: Boarding/Launching the Craft

Overview:

Students practice boarding, launching, and landing the craft.

Associated Objectives:

- ☐ Students will demonstrate appropriate techniques for entering, launching, and exiting a canoe or kayak.

Time:

15 – 30 minutes

Materials:

Canoe or kayak paddles, canoes or kayaks, PFDs

Directions:

If crafts are on a trailer, demonstrate correct unloading procedures. If age/ability appropriate, have students help unload remaining crafts. Demonstrate how to correctly carry a canoe or kayak to shore or dock. Refer to the **Launching and Landing the Craft** section of the *Background Information*. Have students correctly carry their canoes or kayaks to shore or to a dock.

Demonstrate how to properly launch/land the craft. Point out common mistakes and possible consequences. Have student pairs launch their crafts one at a time, making sure they follow correct procedures. Have students practice landing their crafts following the reverse procedure for launching. (Optional: If you are pressed for time, you can have students complete practicing basic strokes in the water, then demonstrate landing the craft at the end of your session.)

Evaluation:

Students should demonstrate how to correctly launch and land a canoe and/or kayak.